

## Claims

1. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of disorders in which the overproduction of s-CD23 is implicated, which method comprises the administration of an effective amount of an inhibitor of the formation of human soluble CD23 to a human or non-human mammal in need thereof, with the provisos that:
  - (a) the disorder is not mediated by a matrix metalloprotease or by tissue necrosis factor; and
  - (b) the inhibitor does not form part of the state of the art by virtue of WO92/16517 or WO93/18173.
2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the inhibitor of the formation of s-CD23 is an inhibitor of matrix metalloprotease.
3. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the inhibitor of the formation of s-CD23 is a hydroxamic acid derivative, a phosphate or a thiol.
4. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the inhibitor of the formation of s-CD23 is selected from:
  - [4-(N-hydroxyamino)-2-(R)-isobutyl-3-(S)-(2-thiophenethiomethyl)succinyl]-(S)-phenylalanine-N-methylamide;
  - N<sup>2</sup>-[(R)-[hydroxycarbamoylmethyl]-4-methylvaleryl]-N<sup>1</sup>, 3-dimethyl-(S)-valinamide;
  - N-[3-(N'-hydroxycarboxamido)-2-(2-methylpropyl)propanoyl]-(S)-O-methyl-L-tyrosine-N-methylamide;
  - methyl 3-(S)-mercapto-6-methyl-4-(S)-[[[1(S)-[(methylamino)carbonyl]-2-(3-indolyl)ethyl]amino]carbonyl]heptanoate;
  - isopropyl 3-(S)-mercapto-6-methyl-4-(S)-[[[1(S)-[(methylamino)carbonyl]-2-(3-indolyl)ethyl]amino]carbonyl]heptanoate;
  - 3-(S)-mercapto-N<sup>1</sup>-[1-(S)-[(methylamino)carbonyl]-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethyl]-2-(S)-(2-methylpropyl)pentanediamide;
  - N-[N-((S)-1-phosphonopropyl)-(S)-leucyl]-O-methyl-(S)-tyrosine N-methylamide;
  - N-[3-(hydroxycarboxamido)-2R-(2-methylpropyl)propanoyl]-(S)-phenylalanine-N-methylamide; and
  - N-[3-(hydroxycarboxamido)-2R-(2-methylpropyl)propanoyl]-(S)-phenylalanine-N-benzylamide; or
  - a pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

5. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is hereinbefore described with reference to the Table.

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2020-07-07